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Wednesday - 6 October 1971

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11. [] Met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, and talked with him at some length about the Symington amendment to the Military Procurement Act imposing a \$350 million ceiling on U.S. expenditures for Laos for fiscal year 1972. Woodruff was of the firm opinion it was not intended that this ceiling apply to those more or less fixed expenses, such as the cost of maintaining the embassy and our station in Laos, which would occur regardless of the existence of paramilitary operations there. He also said he thought Senator Stennis had not focused sufficiently on that provision of the amendment which would require authorization for expenditures in Laos after fiscal year 1972. Woodruff feels this could create some real problems for the Agency if indeed we continue to carry on the PM operations there. He saw no problem with the provision requiring submission of reports. He said those would normally go to the Vice President and the Speaker of the House and could be handled on a classified basis. He added, however, that they would undoubtedly go to the Foreign Relations Committee as well as to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

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12. [] Scott Cohen, Executive Assistant to Senator Charles Percy (R., Ill.), called to recommend to us as a prospect for an [] who has been working for the Cabinet Committee on Spanish Speaking Peoples. Arrangements were made for [] to be interviewed by [] next Tuesday, 12 October, at 10 a.m.

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13. [] In response to her request, sent a brochure on the Agency to [] in the office of Representative Fred Schwengle (R., Iowa).

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[] JOHN M. MAURY
[] legislative Counsel

cc:

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ER O/DDCI

[]
Mr. Houston Mr. Goodwin
DDS DDS&T DDI
EA/DDP OPPB

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LAOS

WASHINGTON STAR

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5 OCT 1971

Senate Votes Ceiling On CIA Funds in Laos

The Senate, disturbed by CIA involvement in a guerrilla war, has voted to clamp a lid on the steadily increasing cost of defending Laos.

In a compromise worked out between the Nixon administration and Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., members voted, 67 to 11, yesterday to impose a \$350 million ceiling on U.S. support for allied forces fighting in Laos — including paramilitary troops who are trained, paid, fed, clothed, advised and supported by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The amendment, a rider to the \$21 billion military procurement bill, does not affect U.S. air support for Laos, which costs about \$140 million annually. Nor does it restrict the bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail that leads through Laos into South Vietnam.

Would Ban Escalation

The administration decided not to fight the restriction since \$350 million apparently was all it planned to spend anyway.

But the Symington amend-

ment, if enacted, would prevent a major U.S. escalation of the war. And it represents the first attempt by Congress to control the CIA's role in the conflict—a role that now has been acknowledged by the administration.

The CIA-directed guerrilla army in Laos includes Lao irregulars and "volunteers" from neighboring Thailand.

Symington said during the debate that many of the Thai volunteers are professional soldiers from the Thai army. He said the cost of supporting them is 25 percent higher than the entire U.S. outlay for the Royal Lao army, the regular force that is supported under the official U.S. military assistance program but that has not proved effective in resisting the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao rebels.

American ground troops have been barred from fighting in Laos since 1969 by act of Congress. But there has been concern that the growing U.S. aid program and CIA involvement—which has increased American costs 20-fold in the last nine years—could escalate into a Vietnam-like war.

CIA Role Unveiled

The CIA expenses, like most of the other appropriations for the agency, normally are disguised by hiding the outlays in padded appropriations for other agencies. The Symington amendment recognizes the CIA's involvement in Laos for the first time.

Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., warned however, that the amendment may be used by the administration in the future as evidence that Congress was authorizing the CIA to continue its work.

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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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1. [] Met with Jim Woolsey, General Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, who, in response to my questions, said the \$350 million ceiling on Laos expenditures set by the Symington amendment "covers everything but air combat operations by U.S. forces throughout Laos." He added that such things as gun ship operations by indigenous crews came under the ceiling, but of course were not prohibited by the amendment.

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2. [] Dorothy Fosdick, Senate Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations staff, called and said Senator Jackson had asked her to get an updated briefing on the situation on the Sino-Soviet border. I told Miss Fosdick that I thought there had been very little, if any, change in that situation, but I would check and be back in touch with her.

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3. [] Talked to Mr. Michael Van Dusen, Near East Subcommittee staff, House Foreign Affairs Committee, and rescheduled the informal briefing for the Subcommittee. A tentative date of Wednesday, 13 October, 10:00 a.m., Room 2200 Rayburn Building, was agreed upon. Mr. Van Dusen will try to confirm the day with Chairman Hamilton in the morning. [], OCI, has been advised.

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4. [] I advised J. Sourwine, Chief Counsel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, that in response to his request I had checked one more time with our people regarding []
[]
[] I told Sourwine we know nothing about [] Sourwine said he just wanted to be sure of this because they plan to press him further in executive session regarding the means by which he entered the U.S. via Mexico.

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5. [] Met with Senator Henry Jackson (D., Wash.), Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations, and Miss Dorothy Fosdick, of the Subcommittee staff, in response to the Senator's request and briefed him on the military situation along the Sino-Soviet border.

Senator Jackson tended to discount the likelihood that the Foreign Relations Committee would undertake a full-scale investigation of the Agency, as suggested by one of the Committee members. He did remark, however, that in considering pending legislation dealing with the Agency, such as the Cooper bill requiring that intelligence material be made available to the Congress as a whole, the Committee might delve into some questions regarding the Agency.

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6. [] Met with Martin Hamburger, Administrative Assistant to Senator Hugh Scott (R., Pa.), to renew the Director's invitation to the Senator to visit the Agency at his convenience for a breakfast or lunch and discuss the Senator's meeting with Suslov during his recent visit to the Soviet Union. Hamburger said he was sure the Senator would welcome a chance to do this and would let us know as soon as he could work it into his schedule.

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7. [] Discussed with Ed Braswell and John Goldsmith, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, possibilities that the Foreign Relations Committee, in considering pending legislation, might probe into Agency matters. They had no specific information on this, but said they would see what they could find out.

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8. [] Talked to William Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, who said he had no indication that the Foreign Relations Committee planned hearings regarding Agency matters, but would let me know if he heard anything.

I brought Woodruff up-to-date on what I knew of the way the Symington amendment regarding a monetary ceiling on expenditures in Laos had been worked out. Woodruff didn't seem particularly happy with this, but conceded that he didn't know any alternatives.

Woodruff said that he had not yet received Deputy Secretary Packard's letter on the readout program. I told him the Director fully concurred in this letter and would be glad to provide a similar letter if the Chairman wished. Woodruff said he would let me know if this was necessary, which he thought unlikely.

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